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Foreign Broadcast Information Service

2430 E Street, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

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[redacted]
Chief, Hawaii Bureau
Foreign Broadcast Information Service
Post Office Box 77
Kekaha, Kauai, T. H.

Dear [redacted]

This is in reply to your letter of 15 March 1948. I have not replied earlier due to the fact that the new Far Eastern Station has been almost continuously under discussion and is just about to be crystallized. Following my return this subject was discussed with many people on all levels in CIA and the following conclusions were reached:

- a. The capabilities of a station located on Kauai or elsewhere in the Hawaiian Islands supplemented by the present Tokyo installation is not adequate.
- b. The present station on Kauai is not satisfactory due to its inability to obtain the desired coverage and to the uncertainty of the communications and other support from the Army.
- c. Expenditure of funds for the movement of the Kauai Station to Oahu cannot be justified.
- d. Technical tests conducted indicate that the coverage now obtained at Kauai and Tokyo and that additional which we are seeking can be accomplished from Raseda and a new station on the Island of Okinawa.
- e. Funds are available for the construction of a major station on Okinawa. Such funds will not be available after 30 June 1948 and no assurance can be given that they would be available for the construction of even a small station after that date.

In view of the foregoing and after careful consideration it was decided to recommend to the Director that a major Far Eastern Monitoring Station be constructed on the Island of Okinawa. This recommendation has been approved contingent upon:

- a. A commitment in writing from the U. S. Army Signal Service that traffic from Okinawa to Washington can be handled without cost to us and
- b. That all funds for this project can be encumbered prior to 1 July, 1948.

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If this station is actually established it is anticipated that your present coverage will be moved to Raseda and Okinawa and the station on Kauai eliminated. I know that you are in disagreement with this plan and your views have been given consideration in arriving at the above decision.

Let me emphasize that there are still contingencies to be overcome before this move is final and I anticipate that if the contingencies are overcome it would be at least 12 months before the transfer of stations can actually be undertaken. It is my desire that you do not discuss this matter with other members of your staff at the present time for the following reasons:

- a. The entire project may fall through.
- b. No drastic curtailment of your activities is contemplated in the near future.
- c. It would be detrimental to the morale of your staff and cause discontent and dissatisfaction.
- d. The project is still classified secret.

I know that this is not pleasant news to you and that you have strongly opposed this action. I am glad for staff members to express themselves at any time. However, once a definite decision has been reached and a line of action decided upon I expect all members to give the project their fullest cooperation and whole-hearted support and I am counting on you to do this.

Sincerely,

L. K. WHITE
Chief, FBIB

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